

test devices and cotton swabs in plastic garbage bags and transported them back to the CHRG or regional office for proper disposal;

- (6) signing of confidentiality statements by all staff after full training in human subjects' protection requirements;
- (7) securing a Federal Certificate of Confidentiality. This certificate afforded added protection to subjects by precluding the possibility of data being subpoenaed; and finally, by
- (8) aggregate data analysis.

TOWARD ESTIMATING TREATMENT NEED

To reiterate, the primary purpose of this study was to estimate the prevalence of AOD use and dependence among the Tennessee's adult ER patients and, in turn, to estimate the prevalence of their need for drug treatment. This entailed five steps:

- (1) analyzing the ER patients' self-reported AOD use;
- (2) analyzing the patients' urinalysis and saliva test results;
- (3) comparing self-reported AOD use with urinalysis and saliva test results to estimate the validity of self-reported use within the ER patient sample;
- (4) combining test results with self-reported AOD use and treatment data to estimate the prevalence of need for AOD treatment within the sample; and
- (5) determining gaps in the provision of AOD treatment for adult ER patients.

PATIENT SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Disaggregated by sex, the Tennessee Hospital ER Drug Study sample closely resembled the adult Tennessee population. Males comprised 43% of the ER sample compared with 47% of the State population (Table 1 and Figure 1). Disaggregation by age, however, revealed that the ER sample over-represented the young. Forty-five percent of the ER patients in the study sample were aged 18-34 years compared with 33% of Tennesseans. Not only did females constitute a majority of the ER patients, but those aged 25-34 were strongly over-represented. They comprised 16% of ER patients compared with 10% of the Tennessee population. Females aged 18-24 were also somewhat over-represented among the ER patients; that is, 10% of ER patients versus 7% of the Tennessee population. Their male counterparts comprised 9% of the ER sample and 7% of the Tennessee population.